“The possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility.”- Ideas so far

The quote assumes that possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility i.e. that simply knowing something makes you ethically responsible. Ethical responsibility refers to the idea that you should do something to correct a harmful situation or prevent harm from happening. The object of harm may be you, other people, animals or aspects of the environment.

The statement can be answered from different points of view:

* It does carry an ethical responsibility because there are certain kinds of knowledge that impose an obligation or a challenge on the person who carries it.
  + Examples of this are when one discovers a murder scene, a robbery or any other situation of that sort. This is due to the fact that a person must choose between revealing the information, and potentially harming him/herself; or keeping it instead of potentially helping someone else. There is a conflict of interest in any of these situations.
* The ethical responsibility consists in the decision the person must make, being each person’s moral values and sense of what is right. They also consider consequences of their actions and the amount of people that consequences will affect.

Several knowledge issues can be brought about by considering the areas of knowledge which can be investigated for this title.

Areas of knowledge:

* Human Sciences:
  + E.g. Phycology can be used to change the way people think but is that ethically right or wrong?
* Natural Sciences:
  + E.g. The knowledge of Biology can be used with medicine. However can this knowledge in Biology be used in any manner when it comes to medicine?
* Religion:
  + E.g. If you follow the Islam religion for example, and you have been told that your religion states that you cannot consume alcohol but you witness a Muslim friend consuming alcohol. In terms of ethics, do you tell them not to do so because your religion states that you shouldn't or do you walk away because you have no right to interfere with their own decisions?

Ways of knowing related:

* Reason:
  + Reason as a way of knowing is used by each individual to judge and consider the consequences and benefits of obtaining knowledge and use these to make decisions on what to do with the knowledge they have obtained.
* Emotion:
  + Allows us as individuals to decide on our behaviour and our actions